

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer:

A major oil spill is unfolding off the Southern California coast, about nine miles from Huntington Beach, California. Estimates suggest that at least 144,000 gallons oil have spilled from an offshore pipeline connected to the Elly platform. Dead birds and dead fish are already washing ashore, local beaches have been closed, boaters are being asked to stay away, and all fishing is curtailed for the area. Oil pollution threatens the more than \$2 billion in wages and \$4.15 billion in gross domestic product generated by the marine economy in Orange County.

With this in mind, we urge you to retain the offshore oil and gas related provisions in the Build Back Better Act, including the provision that invests in the long-term protection of coastal communities by ending new federal oil and gas leasing off the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, and in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. These provisions reduce the financial risks that existing policies create for the federal government while raising significant revenues and protecting taxpayers.

It is time to enact a budget that ends new federal leasing for offshore oil and gas drilling and prevents the next oil spill. Oil spills shut down the very activity that drives coastal economies. As we are seeing in California right now, toxic oil is covering marine wildlife, causing beaches to close, and shutting down recreation areas that support local businesses and industries. We cannot afford to keep investing our nation's budget in harmful leasing at a time when we should be investing in coastal communities, which requires preventing new offshore leasing. To avoid the next drilling disaster and protect future generations we must permanently protect our coasts from new offshore drilling. Thousands of jobs in industries like tourism, recreation, and fishing rely on the decisions we make in the coming weeks and months.

Support for protecting our coasts from new drilling is backed broadly, as Americans see the environmental impacts of recurring oil spills and the associated greenhouse gas emissions that drive the climate crisis. Currently, more than 390 coastal municipalities have formally opposed drilling off their coastline, as has every governor of a state along the West and East Coasts. Alliances representing more than 50,000 businesses have also expressed their opposition.

Congress has a crucial opportunity to end new offshore oil and gas leasing in the Build Back Better Act. We are confident your leadership will help us pass a budget that invests in protecting our coastal communities.

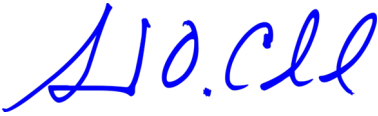
Sincerely,



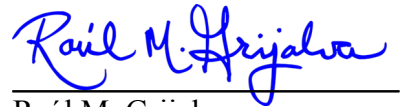
Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress




Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



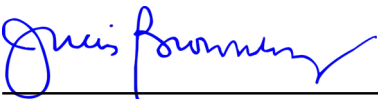
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress
Chair, Subcommittee on
Water, Oceans, and Wildlife



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



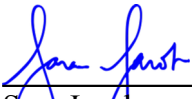
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



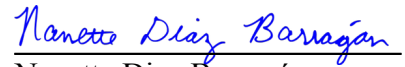
Grace F. Napolitano
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John Garamendi
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Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



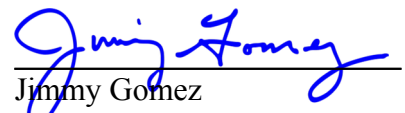
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



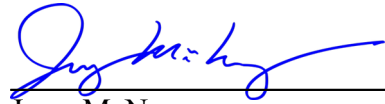
Tony Cárdenas
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Scott H. Peters
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Carolyn B. Maloney
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Jerry McNerney
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Barbara Lee
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Frederica S. Wilson
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Kathy Castor
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Mike Thompson
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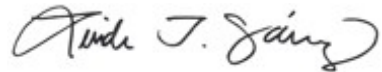
Mark DeSaulnier
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Adam B. Schiff
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Gerald E. Connolly
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Linda T. Sánchez
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Jimmy Panetta
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Chellie Pingree
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Thomas R. Suozzi
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Ted Lieu
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Yvette D. Clarke
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



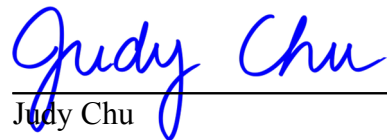
David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



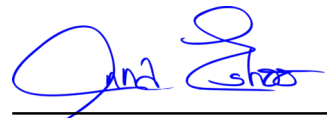
Ro Khanna
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Judy Chu
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Jamie Raskin
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Anna G. Eshoo
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Lucille Roybal-Allard
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Ami Bera, M.D.
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A. Donald McEachin
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Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
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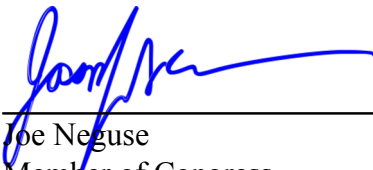
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



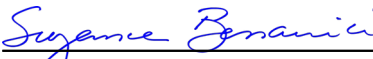
C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger
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Joe Neguse
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Nikema Williams
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Suzanne Bonamici
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Dina Titus
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Brad Sherman
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Charlie Crist
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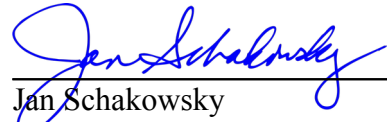
Darren Soto
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Paul D. Tonko
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Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



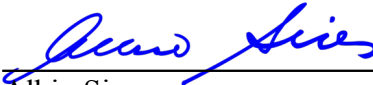
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



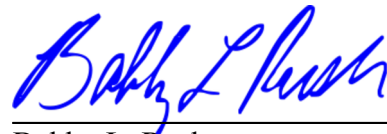
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



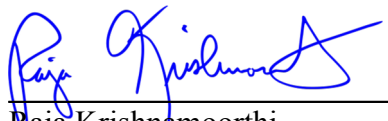
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



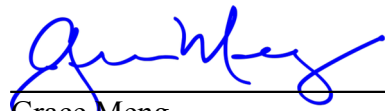
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
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Juan Vargas
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Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



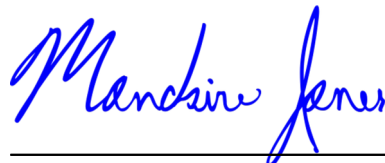
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress



Marie Newman
Member of Congress

CC: Representative Raúl Grijalva, Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
Representative John Yarmuth, Chairman, Committee on the Budget
Representative Richard E. Neal, Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means
Ron Klain, Chief of Staff, The White House

Gina McCarthy, National Climate Advisor, The White House
Ali Zaidi, Deputy National Climate Advisor, The White House